

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 12 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshii et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,396,336). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yoshii discloses that for a general object shown in FIG. 12(A), by seeking the width Δx of the edge portion on a horizontal brightness distribution and comparing it with a known value Δx_0 , whether the image is in focus or out of focus can be determined (col. 4, line 42-53). However, Yoshii fails to disclose that the width Δx of the edge portion is sought in only an upper region of the image or from the image data limited to the upper region thereof.

Regarding Claim 1

Yoshii and Ohmi fail to disclose at least the features of "detecting feature data of the image in only an upper region thereof and calculating a correction amount from the detected feature data" of the presently claimed invention.

Regarding Claim 12

At least, the element of the claimed invention "a region limiting section for limiting image data to an upper region thereof and outputting the limited image data" is not taught or suggested by Yoshii and Ohmi. And Yoshii and Ohmi fail to disclose at least the features of "detecting feature data of the image from the image data limited to the

upper region thereof and calculating a correction amount from the detected feature data" of the presently claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 5077-000236/US/NP from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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